

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

COMUSSAGE NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC

COGARD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 091818

COGARD FOR POLAD

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TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: MAY 3 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. MOST PAPERS CARRY AP SAIGON STORY OF USE OF AIR
AMERICA PLANE TO TRANSPORT NVN PRISONERS AND AMBASSADOR'S
DENIAL THAT IT CONSTITUTES C-F VIOLATION. SUN HAS
PAGE ONE, FIVE-COLUMN PHOTO OF HANDCUFFED POWS BOARDING
AIRCRAFT. PHOTO TEXT CALLS AIR AMERICA "CIA-OWNED
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AIRLINE," QUOTES MARTIN THAT IT WAS USED FOR HUMANITARIAN
REASONS IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST TO FLY WOUNDED PRISONER
(RPT. PRISONER), THAT HE DID NOT KNOW SIX OTHER POWS
WOULD ALSO BE CARRIED. STORY ADDS THAT MARTIN MADE

ADMISSION AFTER PHOTOS SHOWED SEVEN NVN POWS BOARDING AIR AMERICA PLANE, ONE WOUNDED IN LEG BUT WALKING UNAIDED. BALTO N-A (5/2) CARRIES MARTIN'S EXPLANATION THAT AIR AMERICA, BESIDES ICCS CONTRACT, IS ALSO UNDER CONTRACT TO EMBASSY FOR PURELY US BUSINESS, BUT HUMANITARIAN REQUESTS ANSWERED WHEN POSSIBLE, THOUGH HE WAS NOT SURE HOW MANY TIMES AIR AMERICA USED FOR SUCH MISSIONS. CSM, NYT AND WP ADD THAT OBSERVERS NOTE PHOTOS DOCUMENT HANOI VIOLATION - PRESENCE OF ITS TROOPS IN SVN - THAT COMMUNISTS CONSISTENTLY DENY. WP REPORTS THAT PHOTOS TAKEN WHEN POWS WERE EXHIBITED TO PEOPLE AT MOC HOA AFTER CAPTURE AND SAID THAT THEY WERE FROM

NVN. NY POST (5/2) MENTIONS THAT NVN AND VC REPEATEDLY CHARGE THAT US VIOLATES C-F BY SUPPLYING CIVILIANS FOR MIL-RELATED OPERATIONS, FOR INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING AND TO ADVISE GVN.

2. DOS SPOKESMAN HARE DEFENDS USE OF AIR AMERICA PLANE TO TRANSPORT "WOUNDED PERSON," TELLS NEWS CONFERENCE THAT IT WAS MOTIVATED BY HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS (AP, NYT).

3. SHERMAN (S-N 5/2) REPORTS KENNEDY MOVES TO BLOCK DOD FROM SPENDING ADDITIONAL 266 MILLION DOLS IN FY 74 FOR MIL AID TO GVN. MONEY EARLIER REPORTED FOUND BY PENTAGON, BECAUSE OF INCORRECT BILLING, AND USE OKED BY SASC. KENNEDY SUBMITS AMENDMENT TO DOD SUPPLEMENTA BILL, SOON TO BE ON SENATE FLOOR, TO FORBID FURTHER TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO GVN THIS YEAR BEYOND THOSE ALREADY OBLIGATED UNDER CEILING. SENATOR SAYS AMENDMENT PUTS PENTAGON ON NOTICE THAT CONGRESS TIRED OF SHIP-NOW, PAY-LATER PRACTICE AND THAT DOD MUST PUT BOOKKEEPING IN ORDER. DOD BELIEVES IT NEEDS EXTRA MONEY BECAUSE OF INFLATION AND SPOKESMAN SAYS THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN SOME SLOWDOWN IN SHIPMENTS TO GVN THIS QUARTER. SENATE SOURCES SAY KENNEDY AMENDMENT LIKELY TO HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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MIXED RECEPTION, AND SYMINGTON "UNSURE" IT WOULD PASS; BUT SOURCES CLOSE TO KENNEDY BELIEVE IT WILL SET STAGE FOR REAL SENATE BATTLE OVER ADMIN'S REQUEST FOR 1.45 BILLION AID FOR GVN IN 1975 MIL BUDGET.

4. FIELD REPORTS SAY GVN FORCES RETURN TO SVN AFTER FOUR-DAY INCURSION INTO CAMBODIA "IN VIOLATION OF THE TRUCE" (AP SUN, WP). SVN COMMAND DENIES SOLDIERS CROSSED INTO CAMBODIA, ONLY ADMITS THAT AIR, ARTILLERY FIRE MAY HAVE "SPILLED OVER" IN FIVE DAYS OF HEAVY FIGHTING ALONG BORDER (UPI, BALTO N-A 5/2; AP WP, S-N 5/2). NVN NEWS AGENCY QUOTES MFA STATEMENT ATTACKING US AND SVN FOR "INTERVENTION AND AGGRESSION" IN CAMBODIA,

CHARGING SVN TROOPS INTRUDED WITH US ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT (REUTER HK).

5. SHIPLER (NYT) FROM MOC HOA REPORTS FIGHTING INSIDE CAMBODIA CONTINUES FOR THIRD DAY. QUOTES MIL AND CIVILIAN SOURCES THAT ARVN SET UP COMMAND POST ACROSS FRONTIER AND ACKS WITH AT LEAST 3000 TROOPS AND ABOUT 60 APCs. SAYS BATTLE BEING WAGED AS IF PARIS AGREEMENT NEVER EXISTED, AND IS A TANGLE OF ACTIONS THAT DEFIES ATTEMPT TO BLAME ONE SIDE FOR BREAKING ACCORDS. C-F FORBIDS BOTH SIDES FROM USING CAMBODIAN

TERRITORY, BUT SVN ACCUSES NVN OF CONTINUED USE AS SANCTUARY AND SUPPLY ROUTE. FIGHTING APPARENTLY TRIGGERED BY COMMUNIST TAKE-OVER OF GVN BORDER POST AT LONG KHOT THAT WAS USED FOR CROSS-BORDER RAIDS ON NVN TROOPS. SHIPLER QUOTES "WELL-INFORMED" SVN OFFICIAL THAT GVN MILITIA AT POST ROUTINELY DISGUISE SELVES AS VC TO PENETRATE CAMBODIA AND ATTACK. NVN REPORTEDLY MOVED AGAINST POST AND GVN SAYS ATTACK REPULSED; BUT SOLDIERS SAY DEFENDERS WITHDREW AND NVN MOVED IN. MIL MEN SAY SVN ONLY TRYING TO GET POST BACK, NOT PUSH AN OFFENSIVE INTO CAMBODIA, AND TROOPS IN PINCERS ACTION CROSSED BORDER. SHIPLER QUOTES SVN OFFICIAL THAT IN COUPLE OF DAYS "WE WILL HAVE THE OUTPOST BACK."

6. CDN'S GREEN HAS STORY OF ARVN SOLDIER THINKING UNCLASSIFIED

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OF DESERTING (BUT AFRAID OF PATROLS THAT SEARCH FOR DRAFT-DODGERS AND AWOLS) BECAUSE HE CANNOT FEED FAMILY ON ARMY PAY. GREEN QUOTES WESTERN MIL ATTACHES AND ARVN SOURCES THAT SUCH DISCONTENT IS PART OF SAGGING MORALE PROBLEM THROUGHOUT ARMY AND MILITIA. PROBLEM NOT ACUTE, BUT SOURCES FEAR COULD BECOME SERIOUS AS INFLATION CONTINUES. CONVOYS STOPPED BY SOLDIERS WHO DEMAND RICE, TROOPS BUY LEAVE TO FIND OUTSIDE JOBS, ACCORDING TO ATTACHES, AND NEWS STORIES OF CRIMES "MORE OFTEN THAN NOT" MENTION SOLDIERS.

CHINA

7. SUN'S WU, IN HK, SAYS ENTIRE CCP POLITBURO APPEARS INTACT DESPITE PREVIOUS RUMORS THAT SOME MIGHT HAVE BEEN DISGRACED IN CURRENT DOMESTIC POLITICAL STORM, ACCORDING TO LATE NCNA LIST OF LEADERS WHO ATTENDED MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS. SAYS LIST DISPELS SPECULATION THAT LI TEH-SHENG IS IN POLITICAL TROUBLE FOR ALLEGED LOYALTY TO LIN PIAO. WHILE MOTIVE BEHIND MOVING LI OUT OF PEKING TO REGIONAL MILITARY COMMAND IS STILL NOT TOO CLEAR, HIS RE-EMERGENCE "UNDOUBTEDLY

INDICATES THAT HE IS STILL IN GOOD POLITICAL STANDING."

8. WP'S KAISER, IN MOSCOW, CITES TASS REPORT THAT ON THURSDAY PRC AMBASSADOR TO USSR WAS READ "ULTIMATUM" BY DEPUTY SOVIET FM DEMANDING PEKING RELEASE SOVIET HELICOPTER AND CREW DETAINED MARCH 14 OR ASSUME "FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS PROVOCATIVE STAND." KAISER OBSERVES THAT "CONSEQUENCES" WERE NOT SPECIFIED, GIVING NOTE "APPARENT DELIBERATE AMBIGUITY"; ADDS THAT NOTE'S SIGNIFICANCE WAS UNDERLINED

BY FACT IT WAS DELIVERED IN MIDDLE OF 4-DAY MAY DAY HOLIDAY, WHEN ALL SOVIET OFFICES ARE CLOSED. SAYS STERN NOTE APPEARS TO FORESHADOW SINO-SOVIET CONFRONTATION OF SORTS, SINCE IT LEAVES PRC NO APPARENT CHOICE BESIDES RELINQUISHING SOVIET CRAFT AND CREW OR ACCEPTING "INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCES."

9. MD. GOV. MANDEL TELLS WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE HE WILL UNCLASSIFIED

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ACCEPT OFFER TO VISIT PRC WITH 5 OTHER US GOVERNORS MAY 12 (WP). SUN DISPATCH QUOTES MANDEL SAYING ALTHOUGH HE WILL HAVE TO CANCEL DOZENS OF SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS TO DO SO, THIS IS "TOO GREAT AN HONOR TO TURN DOWN." GOV. SAYS HE HAS LITTLE INFO ON JOURNEY, ALTHOUGH WH HAS ANNOUNCED TRIP WILL LAST TEN DAYS. MANDEL KNOWS OF NO OTHER MARYLAND OFFICIAL MAKING TRIP -- "ALTHOUGH VIRTUALLY EVERYONE IN THE GOVERNOR'S STAFF HAS MADE A PITCH TO THEIR BOSS FOR INCLUSION IN THE CHINA PARTY," SUN REPORTS.

10. PRC AGREES TO BRITISH OVERSEAS TRADE BOARD (BOTB) PROPOSAL TO STAGE MACHINE TOOLS AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS EXHIBITION MARCH-APRIL 1975, PERHAPS IN SHANGHAI (JOC).
JAPAN

11. WP'S MORGAN REPORTS SFRC HEARINGS ON JAVITS-SPONSORED "JAPAN-US FRIENDSHIP ACT," THAT WOULD ESTABLISH 32 MIL DOLS TRUST FUND TO SUPPORT ACADEMIC STUDIES AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES. NOTES THAT DURING TESTIMONY ON BILL THIS WEEK, JAVITS AND OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS SPOKE EMOTIONALLY ABOUT DECLINE OF US INTEREST IN JAPAN. HUMPHREY SAID, "WE JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND THESE PEOPLE" AND MORE HAS TO BE DONE TO MAKE AMERICANS AWARE OF "WHAT MAKES THEM TICK." MORGAN SAYS ATTENDANCE HAS BEEN LIGHT, ONLY 4 OF 17 CMTE. MEMBERS TOOK PART. OBSERVES REISCHAUER THURSDAY SAID ADMIN. POLICIES HAVE "SERIOUSLY STRAINED" GOJ'S CONFIDENCE IN ITS DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP WITH US, AND ADDED THAT JAPANESE STILL ARE "MOST PACIFISTIC PEOPLE" IN WORLD; BUT NIXON DOCTRINE HAS DONE "GREAT DEAL TO UNDERMINE THEIR CONFIDENCE." REISCHAUER CITED ADMIN. FAILURE

TO CONSULT WITH TOKYO BEFORE NIXON'S CHINA TRIP. SEVERAL WITNESSES SAID ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND WOULD HAVE SYMBOLIC "IMPACT" IN JAPAN. JAVITS BILL EARMARKS TEN PERCENT OF 320 MILLION DOLS JAPAN AGREED TO PAY US IN CONNECTION WITH OKINAWA REVERSION. DOS FAVORS ALTERNATIVE PLAN THAT WOULD PROVIDE 17 MILLION FOR SIMILAR PURPOSES OVER TEN YEARS; THIS SUM IS LEFT OVER FROM 1963 ACTION BY JAPAN THAT MADE 25 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR CULTURAL EXCHANGES. DOS OFFICIALS SAY THEY WOULD BE DELIGHTED IF JAVITS MEASURE PASSED, BUT ARE PRESSING FOR LESS AMBITIOUS PROPOSAL FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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"TACTICAL REASONS"; THEY DOUBT APPROPRIATIONS CMTE. WOULD APPROVE ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUST FUND.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

VIETNAM

12. CSM'S SOUTHERLAND IN SAIGON NOTES THAT AMBASSADOR BUNKER ENJOYED DIPLOMATIC PARTIES, DINNERS WITH SMALL GROUPS OF NEWSMEN, TRIPS TO VIET COUNTRYSIDE WITH THIEU. MA-RTIN, WHO OFTEN STAYS UP UNTIL 2 A.M. GOING THROUGH REPORTS, PREFERS READING TO SOCIALIZING, WORKS WITH SMALLER CIRCLE OF CLOSE ASSOCIATES THAN BUNKER AND AVOIDS MANY PUBLIC FUNCTIONS SOME DIPLOMATS REGARD AS OBLIGATORY. AS AN AIDE PUT IT, HE DOESN'T BELIEVE HE HAS TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED IN A RICE PADDY TO BE EFFECTIVE. BUT IN RECENT WEEKS, MARTIN WENT PUBLIC. IN EARLY MARCH, HE SENT 23-PAGE CRITIQUE OF NYT ARTICLE, LET IT BE KNOWN HE WOULD NOT OBJECT TO ITS RELEASE AND SEEMED PLEASED WHEN IT WAS MADE PUBLIC. SOUTHERLAND DESCRIBES HASSLE OVER KENNEDY LETTER. SAYS MARTIN RETURNS SOON FOR CONSULTATIONS AND IS SAID TO FEEL THAT ADMIN, PREOCCUPIED WITH WATERGATE AND OTHER PROBLEMS, HAS NOT BEEN FIGHTING HARD ENOUGH TO DEFEND ITS INDOCHINA POLICIES. HE HAS NOT ALWAYS AGREED WITH POLICIES LAID DOWN IN WASHINGTON AND HAS OFTEN SAID HE OPPOSED USE OF US COMBAT TROOPS IN INDOCHINA, AND WAS SACKED AS AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND IN 1967 BECAUSE OF THAT OPPOSITION. MARTIN SAID HE DID NOT WANT SAIGON POST BUT ACCEPTED BECAUSE HE CONSIDERED IT A "PATRIOTIC DUTY." ALTHOUGH HE IS EAGER TO RETIRE TO HIS TUSCANY FARM, SOME WHO KNOW HIM SAY, ONLY HALF JOKINGLY, THAT HE MIGHT ENLIST FOR ANOTHER YEAR'S TOUR IN VN JUST TO SPITE HIS CRITICS.

13. ARKANSAS GAZETTE POLITICAL REPORTER ERNEST DUMAS CITES MOST POLITICAL OBSERVERS AS BELIEVING THAT GOV. BUMPERS HAS COMMANDING LEAD OVER FULBRIGHT IN MAY 28 DEMOCRATIC PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY. NOTES THAT WHILE

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BUMPERS HASN'T TAKEN ISSUE WITH FULBRIGHT ON FOREIGN POLICY, FULBRIGHT HAS HUNCH THAT HIS TROUBLES ARE BASED ON LINGERING RESENTMENT OVER HIS DOGGED OBJECTIONS TO FIGHTING IN VN (SUN).

14. NY POST COMMENTS THAT NEITHER SIDE IN VN WAR CAN MAKE CREDIBLE CLAIM TO HAVING OBSERVED C-F. CHARACTERIZING THIEU AS "NOT AN INDEPENDENT ALLY BUT A COSTLY AND DEMANDING DEPENDENT" WITH WHOM WASHINGTON IS AT

LEAST PRESUMED TO RETAIN SOME INFLUENCE, SAYS THAT AS HE WAS LAMENTING LOSS OF PEACE - AND, ROUTINELY, BLAMING COMMUNISTS - HIS FORCES WERE, ONCE AGAIN, ENGAGED IN CAMBODIA. THE WAR MAY BE WIDENING ANEW.

CHINA

15. BILL ANDERSON (CHITRIB) REPORTS AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY BUSILY TRANSLATING "CHINESE PATENT MEDICINES" CATALOGUE RECENTLY BROUGHT BACK TO US FROM CHINA BY NCUST. CITES ACS SPOKESMAN THAT "CHINA'S CHEMISTS ARE ISOLATING THE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS IN MANY OF THE PATENT MEDICINES, AND A US DELEGATION WILL TRAVEL THIS YEAR TO CHINA TO STUDY THEIR FINDINGS."

16. CSM STAFFER FREDERIC MORITZ REPORTS THAT LITTLE, BROWN WILL PUBLISH ROXANE WITKE'S ACCOUNT OF CHIANG CHING'S LIFE, BASED ON 60 HOURS OF INTERVIEWS WITH MME. MAO. IN LONG INTERVIEW WITH WITKE, MORITZ SAYS WITKE, WHO VISITED PRC IN 1972, SUGGESTED THAT CHIANG CHING SOUGHT A WESTERN BIOGRAPHER BECAUSE SHE MISSED THE INTERNATIONAL EXPOSURE EDGAR SNOW GAVE HER HUSBAND IN HIS 1938 CLASSIC "RED STAR OVER CHINA." AND IN DISCUSSING PROJECT WITH WITKE, CHIANG CHING SUGGESTED SNOW'S WORK AS GOOD EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW. WITKE CONCEDES SHE LEFT IT LARGELY TO CHIANG CHING TO SET THE EMPHASIS AND CONTENT OF THE INTERVIEWS, MAKING NO CLAIMS THAT SHE IS PRODUCING AN AUTHORITATIVE, INDEPENDENTLY VERIFIED BIOGRAPHY. MME. MAO, SHE ADDS, MADE NO REQUEST TO SEE FINISHED PRODUCT BEFORE PUBLICATION.

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17. SUN'S ANTHONY AUSTIN REVIEWS "LOST CHANCE IN CHINA: THE WORLD WAR II DISPATCHES OF JOHN S. SERVICE," EDITED BY JOSEPH W. ESHERICK. DESCRIBES SERVICE PAPERS AS ILLUMINATING "CHINA LOSS" AND ESHERICK'S PROLOGUE, EPILOGUE AND EXPLANATORY PASSAGES AS "MASTERLY."

JAPAN

18. CHITRIB'S KIRK IN TOKYO DESCRIBES BILL TO NATIONALIZE YASUKUNI SHRINE AS SYMBOLIZING CONFLICTING ATTITUDES AMONG JAPANESE TOWARD MILITARY PAST - AND FUTURE. UNDER PRESSURE BY RELATIVES OF JAPANESE SOLDIERS KILLED IN WWII, GOJ RAMMED THROUGH A PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE A BILL TO NATIONALIZE SHRINE, BUT IT APPEARS RELUCTANT TO PRESENT IT BEFORE WHOLE PARLIAMENT AGAINST UNITED FRONT OF SOCIALISTS, COMMUNISTS, CHRISTIANS

AND BUDDHISTS. CRUX OF ISSUE IS WHETHER GOVT NATIONALIZATION OF SHRINE, DEDICATED TO EMPEROR-WORSHIPPING SHINTO RELIGION, WOULD REVIVE AND CONDONE SPIRIT OF MILITARISM. COROLLARY ISSUE IS WHETHER GOVT WOULD VIOLATE CONSTITUTIONAL SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE BY ASSOCIATING ITSELF WITH TEMPLE OF WORSHIP. SOKA GAKKA AND MOST NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS OPPOSE NATIONALIZATION. WHILE BILL SEEKS TO GET AROUND CONSTITUTION BY DEFINING SHRINE AS NONRELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION, YOMIURI EDITORIALIZED THAT "THE SHRINE SHOULD BE KEPT AS IT IS, REVERED BY THE PEOPLE AND UNSULLIED BY POLITICS."

ADD VIETNAM

19. PARKS (SUN) FROM HANOI QUOTES RC PRIESTSON CONTINUING STRENGTH OF FAITH IN NVN. DRV, HE ASSERTS, HAS NOT EXECUTED PRIEST AND ENSLAVED MEMBERS AS MANY HAVE SAID. PRIEST SAYS HANOI CHURCHES FILLED AND MANY BEING REBUILT IN COUNTRYSIDE, CLAIMS ABOUT ONE MILLION ADHERENTS IN NVN, WHICH REPRESENTS SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH FROM 1954-5 REGROUPMENT WHEN MANY CATHOLICS FLED AND LEFT 400-600,000 IN NVN. ABOUT 350 PRIESTS ARE IN NVN, COMPARED TO 300 IN 1955. PRIEST SAYS CHURCH AND GOVT. HAVE WORKED OUT COMPROMISE TO PERMIT UNCLASSIFIED

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CHURCH TO FUNCTION SO LONG AS IT DOES NOT CHALLENGE COMMUNIST POLITICAL LEADERSHIP OR STATE CONTROL. HOA SEES IMPORTANT PHILOSOPHICAL DIFFERENCES REMAINING BUT HOSTILITY OF PRIOR YEARS ENDED AND IN EVERYDAY LIFE ALL FOLLOW SAME PATH AND HAVE COMMON GOAL. PARKS COMMENTS THAT COMPROMISE BREAKS DOWN FROM TIME TO TIME, JUDGING FROM CRITICISM OF CHURCH IN STATE PUBLICATIONS. CATHOLIC HIERARCHY STILL CONSIDERS ITSELF BOUND BY 25-YEAR-OLD VATICAN ORDER, "ISSUED TO BOLSTER THE FRENCH", THAT PROHIBITS CO-OPERATION BUT AFTER C-F BISHOPS MET WITH AUTHORITIES TO PROMISE TO ASSIST IN RECONSTRUCTION. RUSH

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